



**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Superintendent's Compendium  
of Designations, Closures, Permit  
Requirements and Other Restrictions  
Imposed Under Discretionary Authority**

**Indiana Dunes  
National Lakeshore**

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Porter, Indiana 46304

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Approved:

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Constantine Dillon, Superintendent

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Date

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter I, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements in 36 CFR, Chapter I, Parts 1-7.

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5 (c) appear in this document by italicized print.

**I. 36 CFR SECTION 1.5 - VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES,  
AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES**

Visiting Hours:

- Unless otherwise posted or noted below, all public use areas are open sunrise to sunset.
- Park buildings, offices, and other facilities will be closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day (traditional days). Restroom facilities and public parking lots will remain open.
- Douglas Center for Environmental Education and Parking Lots - Building and main parking lot are open for special events and scheduled programs as posted or announced.
- Bailly-Chellberg Contact Station -Open as posted or announced - closed November 1 through February 28

- Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center - The associated parking lots and areas surrounding the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center are open to scheduled groups and by invitation only. The Good Fellow Lodge is closed except by authorization of the Superintendent.
- Calumet Dune Interpretive Center - Building is open for special events and scheduled programs as posted or announced.
- Dunewood Campground - Open daily from April 1 through October 31.
  - *Campground closures are necessary because of potential damage to water lines from freezing and periodic road closures due to ice and snow. Camping in these areas when trash collection, toilet facilities and dish-washing facilities are not available results in unreasonable impacts upon the areas.*
- The following areas are open to public use from 7:00 a.m. until dusk, year round, unless otherwise posted or announced:
  - Douglas Center Parking Lot (West of Lake Street and North of the Center)
  - West Beach Parking Lot (Walk-in traffic permitted Sunrise – Sunset)
  - Inland Marsh Parking Lot and Inland Marsh Overlook
  - NIPSCO Greenbelt and Cowles Bog Parking Lots
  - Bailly Chellberg Parking Lot
  - Porter Beach Parking Lot
  - Horse Trail (Ly-co-ki-we) Parking Lot
  - Kemil Beach, Dunbar, Lake View and Mount Baldy Parking Lots
  - *Reasonable visitation limitations are set to balance the needs of public access, resource protection, visitor safety, property protection and community concerns.*
- The following areas are open to public use from 7:00 a.m. until dusk from April 16 through November 14:
  - Tremont Picnic Area
  - Central Avenue Parking Lot
  - *These areas receive minimal visitation during the winter and closures are needed to protect facilities from potential damage to water lines from freezing and periodic road and lot closures due to ice and snow.*
- Gated parking lots are kept closed until they are plowed when there is more than 4” of snowfall overnight and/or road conditions are deemed hazardous.
  - *Parking lot closures assists in preventing accidents and damage to visitor vehicles during plowing operations.*

- Public access onto shelf ice is prohibited.
  - *Walking on shelf ice is extremely hazardous. Persons falling through hidden holes and weak spots can quickly disappear from view making rescue difficult.*

Special Closures-Resource Protection:

- The following areas are closed to all public entry during the periods indicated:
  - Park wide - Piping Plover (potential) nesting areas, areas as marked by fencing and posted, closed year-round.
  - Heron Rookery
    - Area immediately adjacent to heron nesting sites, as posted, closed year-round. Permit information and applications are available from the Chief Ranger's Office during normal business hours.
    - Area to the north of the Little Calumet River to the north boundary of the Rookery, closed March 1 through August 31, except by permission of the Superintendent.
    - Parking lots and trails are closed from sunset to sunrise daily.
  - Pinhook Bog (Parking Lot and Trails) - Visitation is restricted except when accompanied by a National Park Service employee or by permission of the Superintendent. Trained National Park Service docents and Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center staff and interns are permitted to check out a centrally located Pinhook Bog key and lead scheduled groups on Pinhook Bog tours. Walking off the boardwalk is prohibited.
  - Area Surrounded by the West Beach Dune Succession Trail - The area surrounding the West Beach Dune Succession trail is closed, except when accompanied by a National Park Service employee or by permission of the Superintendent. Permit information is available from the Resource Management Division Chief's Office during normal business hours.
    - *Due to the fragile nature of these areas, the presence of threatened and endangered plants that will be lost due to unsupervised access and to minimize negative impacts upon these threatened and endangered resources, special closures have been established.*
  - Inland Marsh Trail Parking Lot, Inland Marsh Overlook Parking Lot, and Tremont Picnic Area - The maximum weight limit for vehicles using these parking areas will not exceed 32,000 GVW (excluding school buses).

- *The design of the parking lot does not allow access to oversized vehicles.*
- All Beach Areas – Glass containers are prohibited on all beach areas.
  - *Due to hazards presented by broken glass to barefoot walkers, waders and swimmers, glass is prohibited on all beach areas.*
- Swimming Areas, Beaches and Other Water Areas - All watercraft (motorized, hand and/or wind propelled) are prohibited from all designated swimming beaches and the Greenbelt Ponds. Designated swimming beaches are identified by buoys (“Swim Area” and/or “No Boats”) from May 1 through September 30 (as weather and lake conditions permit).
  - *The use of watercraft in swimming areas is in direct conflict with the safety of swimmers. Due to shallow water conditions and the presence of sensitive resources, the use of motorized watercraft in Long Lake would result in damage to park resource.*
- Winter Sports - Skiing and snowshoeing are permitted on park trails and at other designated sites, providing there is adequate snow base to prevent trail surface or resource damage. Snowboarding, sledding, inner-tubing, tobogganing, and similar winter sports are prohibited within the park.
  - *Sledding on dune slopes damages sensitive plants and promotes erosion. Additionally, park dunes contain many natural and man-made hazards that can cause serious injury.*

## II. 36 CFR SECTION 1.6 - ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

**(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the Superintendent is required. Section:**

- 1.5 Heron Rookery
- 2.4 (d)(3) Historic Weapon
- 2.5 Research Specimen Collection
- 2.12(a)(2) Chain Saw Use (reservation of use)
- 2.13 Fire/Burning Permit/Smelt Season Fire Permit  
- Smelt Season Fire Permits available at Bailly Ranger Station during normal business hours.

- 2.50 Special Events
- 2.51 Public Assemblies, Meetings
- 2.52 Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter
- 2.61 Reservation of Use Tree Removal, Reservation of Use and Occupancy
- 5.1 Commercial Use Permit-Advertisements
- 5.3 Commercial Use Permit-Business Operations
- 5.4 Commercial Use Permit-Passenger Carrying Motor Vehicles
- 5.5 Commercial Photography
- 5.6 Commercial Use Permit-Commercial Vehicles
- 5.7 Construction of Buildings or Other Facilities
- Special Reg. 7.88 Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore – Powerless Flight
  - Hang-Gliding/Para-Gliding: Hang-gliding/Para-gliding permit information is available at the Chief Ranger's Office during normal business hours (not available on holidays) or through the mail
    - All other permit information is available at the Chief Ranger's Office during business hours.
    - Special regulations, restrictions and fees may apply.
    - Permits may be denied/terminated based on 36CFR.6(a),(d),(e),(g)(1),(g)(2),(h)
      - *Federal law and agency policy require that certain activities that fall outside the scope of normal visitation be managed through the issuance of a permit. Permits may only be issued if the activity is in keeping with the purpose of the park and will not result in damage to the resource of conflict with other users.*

### III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 36 CFR SECTION 2.1 - PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**(c)(1), (c)(2) The collection of reasonable small quantities of fruits, nuts and berries (except those listed below) do not have a detrimental impact upon park resources and is permitted.**

- The prickly pear cactus is a locally threatened plant and collection of the fruit would negatively affect their ability to reproduce and is therefore prohibited.
- Mushrooms are not considered fruit but are actually an independent organism. The collection of mushrooms is prohibited.

### **36 CFR SECTION 2.2 WILDLIFE PROTECTION**

**(e) The unauthorized use of artificial light for the purpose of viewing wildlife is prohibited.**

- *The use of artificial lights to view wildlife creates unnecessary man-caused stress upon the animals, causing them to change their behavior patterns. The light also can disturb park neighbors, pose a hazard to vehicular traffic and can be a precursor to poaching activities.*

### **36 CFR SECTION 2.10 CAMPING**

Overnight parking or camping is prohibited, except in designated areas of the Dunewood Campground, or other areas designated by the Superintendent.

**(a) In addition to the specific regulations in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, the following conditions apply to camping activities:**

- Each camping group must register and pay the fee each day at the registration station. Checkout time is 12 noon. The registration receipt must be displayed on the campsite post.
- Camping groups must register within 1 hour of occupying the selected campsite. **Site registration renewal must be done by 10:00 am**
- Maximum occupancy for walk-in sites is restricted to eight people/one vehicle (two tents and one vehicle) per site. Maximum occupancy for all other sites is limited to eight people/two vehicles (one RV and one tent OR two tents) per site. Quiet hours are from 10 pm to 6 am. Unregistered visitors (in excess of 8 persons per site) are not permitted to remain in the campground from 10 pm to 6 am. Campsites may not be reserved. The limit of stay is 14 days in any 30-day period (between Memorial Day and Labor Day).
- All tents must remain on the camping pad. Trailers and other vehicles must remain on the pavement. Bicycles may be walked to the walk-in campsites.
- Livestock are prohibited in the campground.
  - *Because the majority of the park is in close proximity to residential areas, public camping is limited to the developed campground only. Policies related to registration times and camping limitations are established to avoid conflicts between*

*visitors, to provide for protection of the resource and compatible use.*

- Bailly Homestead - camping is permitted, in association with scheduled events at Bailly Homestead, with the approval of the Superintendent.
- Valley Group Campsite - camping is permitted at the Valley Group Campsite, with the approval of the Superintendent.

### **36 CFR SECTION 2.13 FIRES**

**(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas and/or receptacles and under the conditions noted:**

- Cooking fires are permitted in NPS provided grills or approved grills (noncombustible container with a minimum container depth of 2", enclosed sides, and a bottom) in the following designated locations only:
  - West Beach Picnic Shelters
  - Bailly-Chellberg Picnic Shelters
  - Tremont Picnic Shelters
  - Ly-co-ki-we Picnic Shelters
  - Dunewood Campground sites
  - Lake View Picnic Shelters
  - Charcoal and other fire remains from all fires must be cooled and safely disposed of in a noncombustible container or removed from the area.
  - Only wood or charcoal may be burned in cooking or warming fires.
  - Warming fires shall not be placed within ten feet of flammable materials.
- Residential burning of leaves or wood products is prohibited at Reservation of Use and Special Use Permit residences consistent with State and county laws. In rare situations, the Fire Management Officer may approve and issue a Burning Permit at no charge when an appropriate container cannot be utilized or removal of debris is impractical. Only leaves or wood may be burned. Burning of garbage or other materials is prohibited.
- Fires shall be attended at all times until completely extinguished. If fires create an air pollution problem, a nuisance, or a fire hazard, they shall be extinguished. Permit information and applications are available for Fire/Burning Permits from the Fire Management Office.
  - *The above noted limitations on fires are in place to protect park visitors, neighbors and resources from wildfire.*
- Smelt Season - Cooking and warming fires are permitted during smelt season by permit. Those areas and conditions are listed below:

- The Miller Woods beach west of Lake Street (Gary, Indiana), Ogden Dunes Beach, Bailly Beach, Porter Beach, and NPS beach areas from Kemil Beach, east to Lake Shore County Road and associated NPS parking lots are open during smelt season, while in possession of a fire permit and by permit under the following conditions:
    - Closure hours are waived only for those actively engaged in smelt fishing.
    - Vehicles must be parked in designated areas only.
    - Wood gathering is prohibited.
    - Warming and cooking fires are permitted on the beach between the lake and the toe of the first dune only and are required to be in "approved containers" [see Section 2.13 (a)(1) for description]. No ground fires are permitted.
    - Warming fires shall not be placed within ten feet of flammable materials.
    - All trash, fire remains, and entrails are carried out.
    - A Smelt Season Fire Permit must be in the subject's possession while smelt fishing.
    - All State fishing laws are applicable.
- *Smelting and the associated small warming and cooking fire is a historic and traditional use of park resources. This use can be managed without a negative impact under a permit system.*

### **36 CFR SECTION 2.15 PETS**

**(a)(1) With the exception of assistance dogs, the possession of pets is prohibited in the following areas:**

- Porter Beach Unit -Defined as the area west from the State Park boundary to Wabash Street and from Lake Michigan south to Roskin Road (excluding active Reservation of Use and Special Use Permit properties).
- The West Beach Unit Beaches - West Beach is defined as the area from Lake/Porter County Line Road, east to the NPS boundary on the west side of Ogden Dunes and from Lake Michigan, south to Highway 12 (excluding active Reservation of Use and Special Use Permit properties). All beaches are closed to pets; however, pets are permitted on trails and in parking areas.
- The Ly-co-ki-we Trail
  - *Pet restrictions and closures are in place to allow for compatible use of areas and to cooperate with local and state regulations.*

### **36 CFR SECTION 2.16 - HORSES**

**(b) Horseback riding is prohibited on all roads and areas in the park except the**

### **Ly-co-ki-we Trail and parking lot.**

- No horses are permitted west of the horse trail as posted or west of Hadenfeldt Road.
- Horseback riding is permitted on the Ly-co-ki-we Trail and parking lot from March 16 through December 14. However, if there is sufficient snow cover for cross-country skiing (3 inches or more) before December 15 or after March 15, the trail will remain closed to horseback riding. Ly-co-ki-we Trail is a one-way trail for horseback riding and cross-country skiing.
  - *The riding of horses within the park is limited by available parking that is suitable to horse trailers. Additionally, limitations are in place to avoid conflicts between riders and other trail users and to protect sensitive areas from damage.*

**(g) In the parking lot and picnic area, all horse excrement must be bagged, removed from the area, and disposed of appropriately.**

### **36 CFR SECTION 2.20 SKATING, SKATEBOARDS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES**

**(a) Using roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles or any similar device is prohibited.**

- *Park sidewalks, roads and parking areas are not suitable for the use of skates, skateboards and similar devices. Crowded and congested walks and drives and uneven and cracked paved surfaces within the park are a hazard to those using these devices.*
- The use of sand boards, inner tubes and other types of devices used to slide or roll on sand dunes and other geologic features is prohibited.
  - *Using items like those described above on dune slopes damages sensitive plants and promotes erosion. Additionally, park dunes contain many natural and man-made hazards that can cause serious injury.*

### **36 CFR SECTION 2.21 SMOKING**

By Presidential order, all government buildings are closed to smoking.

### **36 CFR SECTION 2.35 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

**(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been**

**opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed:**

- All National Park Service Buildings- All NPS buildings (excluding active Reservation of Use, Special Use Permit properties and NPS dormitory facilities) are closed to the possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages unless authorized by the Superintendent for Special Events.
  - *Park buildings are places of business and in most cases, use or possession of alcoholic beverages is deemed inappropriate.*
- Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center/Cooperative Field Station Preschool-All buildings and associated grounds are closed to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages, except during public assemblies and meetings as authorized by the Superintendent.
  - *These park buildings are used primarily by minors and the use or possession of alcoholic beverages is deemed inappropriate*
- West Beach-The West Beach Unit is defined as the area from Lake/Porter County Line Road, east to the NPS boundary on the west side of Ogden Dunes and from the waters of Lake Michigan, south to Highway 12 (excluding active reservation of use property).
- Dunewood Campground-The Dunewood Campground is defined as the campground, associated public restrooms and shower facilities, registration building, outside theater, and adjoining hiking trails.
  - *The park has experienced and documented a history of serious incidents and aberrant behavior at West Beach and in the Dunewood Campground related to the consumption of alcoholic beverages of such magnitude that the diligent application of less stringent regulations over a reasonable time period, has not proven to resolve the problem.*
- Porter Beach Unit - The Porter Beach unit is defined as the area west from the State Park boundary to Wabash Street and from the waters of Lake Michigan south to Roskin Road (excluding active Reservation of Use and Special Use Permit properties).
  - *The possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited by adjacent Indiana Dunes State Park (immediately to the east) and the Town of Porter (immediately to the south), therefore the Porter Beach unit, which is located between these areas, is also closed to this use.*

### **36 CFR SECTION 3.23 SCUBA AND SNORKELING**

**(a) SCUBA diving and snorkeling within locations designated as swimming areas is prohibited except in accordance with conditions which may be established by the Superintendent.**

- SCUBA diving is prohibited in designated swimming areas.
  - *Due to limited visibility near shore, the potential for SCUBA divers to inadvertently injure swimmers in the water is high.*
- Snorkeling is permitted in Lake Michigan within designated swim beaches provided there is no interference with other swimmers.

### **36 CFR SECTION 4.21 SPEED LIMITS**

**(b) The maximum speed limits on all park roads are as posted.**

### **36 CFR SECTION 4.30 BICYCLES**

**(a) The use of a bicycle is prohibited except on park roads, in parking areas and on routes designated for bicycle use. Bicycles are prohibited on all lands and trails except as follows:**

- West Beach Trail between Ogden Dunes and West Beach.
- Marquette Trail between West Beach and Grand Blvd.
  - *Bicycle use on natural resources and areas not specifically designated for bicycle use promotes erosion and destruction of that resource.*

### **36 CFR SECTION 7.88 SPECIAL REGULATION – POWERLESS FLIGHT**

**(b) Powerless Flight. The use of devices to carry persons through the air in powerless flight is allowed at times and locations designated by the superintendent pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.**

- Permit Conditions include:
  - No flight shall take place without a permit, obtained in advance. Permits can be obtained at the National Lakeshore's Bailly Ranger Station.
  - Launch may only be accomplished from one designated area on the western Mount Baldy ridge.
  - All pilots must have a copy of the permit, personal identification and proof of United States Hanggliding Paragliding Association (USHPA) rating available for inspection by park personnel at the launching site.

- Annual permits will be issued, effective for the period coinciding with the pilot's current USHPA rating card.
- All pilots must be rated by the USHPA and proof of the USHPA rating must be presented to obtain permits.
- Permits/flight activities will be restricted as follows:
  - To provide for safe glider operations and prevent injuries to other beach users, hang gliding is permitted from the second Saturday in September through April 30 only.
  - All pilots must wear safety helmets and will abide by the standards and pilot operating limits established by the USHPA, as well as all applicable laws and regulations imposed by Federal and other governmental agencies. These may be found at: [www.ushpa.org](http://www.ushpa.org)
  - Landing is restricted to the immediate vicinity of the launch site itself, to the beach area in front of the launch site, westward to Central Avenue.
  - Access to the launch site will be by the designated marked trail only. Launching must be to the northeast, north and northwest only.
  - No competitive or spectator events or meets will be permitted. No commercial events or activities will be permitted.
  - No stunt flying is permitted. Wings must be folded as soon as possible after landing and utmost care must be exercised to avoid injury, inconvenience, or undue distraction to other park visitors.
  - Permittee must sign an affidavit, acknowledging that such flights may present a serious hazard to their personal safety, certifying that their equipment is in safe operating condition, and stating that they are in good physical condition.
  - Permittees in violation of any of the conditions of their permit or of this policy are subject to revocation of the permit. Additionally, violators may also be issued violation notices with associated fines and penalties.
  - The Superintendent or his authorized representative may withhold permits, close all or part of the area to powerless flight and otherwise limit or restrict powerless flight activities on a permanent or temporary basis if potentially hazardous conditions exist, to prevent adverse impact to the natural resources, or to prevent conflict with other uses of the area.
    - *The Mount Baldy site has been determined to be appropriate for this type of activity during the dates specified without interfering with or creating a safety hazard with other park recreational activities.*